

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 SSM-03

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-01 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 /103 W

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R 271030Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL SHIRAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0053

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

COMIDEASTFOR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRANIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS

1. WHILE IN IRAN'S SOUTHWESTERN PROVINCE OF KHUZISTAN
SEPTEMBER 5-9, I DISCUSSED WITH SEVERAL IRAIAN OFFICIALS
THE EFFECT OF THE JUNE AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ
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ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AT THE LOCAL

LEVEL. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT.

2. THE ACTING GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN AHWAZ SAID THAT IF THE AREA HE WAS MOST FAMILIAR WITH--PILGRIMAGES TO THE SHIA HOLY PLACES IN IRAQ--WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF OVERALL RELATIONS, THERE HAD BEEN MARKED PROGRESS TOWARD RECONCILIATION. HE SAID THAT RETURNING PILGRIMS HAD REPORTED THEY HAD BEEN WELL-TEATED BY BOTH IRAQI OFFICIALS AND THE POPULACE AT LARGE. HE ADDED THAT THE IRAQIS WERE RE-OPENING THEIR CONSULATE IN KHORRAMSHAHR, PERHAPS INDICATIVE OF THEIR EXPECTATION THAT THERE WOULD BE INCREASING INTERCOURSE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ACROSS THE KHUZISTAN FRONTIER.

3. IRANIAN PORT OFFICIALS IN KHORRAMSHAHR ALSO REPORTED AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE. PRIOR TO THE AGREEMENT, IRANIAN PILOTS COULD ONLY BRING SHIPS FLYING THE IRANIAN FLAG UP THE SHATT-AL-ARAB; IRAQI PILOTS HANDLED EVERYTHING ELSE. AS A RESULT, THE IRAQIS COULD BLOCKADE THE PORT SIMPLY BY REFUSING TO BRING IN ALL SHIPS FLYING THIRD COUNTRY FLAGS. ON ONE OCCASION EARLY THIS YEAR, WHEN IRAQI PILOTS WENT ON STRIKE, KHORRAMSHAHR EXPERIENCED THE ANOMALY OF HAVING ALL ITS BERTHS EMPTY FOR SIX DAYS WHILE MORE THAN 100 SHIPS WERE WAITING BEYOND THE OUTER BAR OF THE SHATT FOR A BERTH IN THE PORT.

4. NOW, HOWEVER, PILOTING CHORES ARE SPLIT 50-50 BETWEEN THE IRANIANS AND IRAQIS REGARDLESS OF THE CARRIER'S FLAG. AS CONSEQUENCE, IRAQ HAS EARNED CONSIDERABLE GOODWILL ON THE IRANIAN SIDE OF THE RIVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE KHORRAMSHAHR PORT AUTHORITY SENT HELP TO THE IRAQIS DURING A RECENT FIRE AT BASRA A FEW MILES UPSTREAM.
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